

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2012

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Op-Ed from County Executive David R. Craig

National Fire Prevention Week – What it Means to You

It's the middle of the night and you and your family are awakened by the sound of a smoke alarm. You know you need to get out of your home quickly, but how? What are you to do?

Unfortunately, that scenario is repeated far too often, not only here in Harford County, but throughout our country.

Statistics from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicate that there was one home fire reported every 85 seconds in 2010, the latest year for which data is available. Those fires resulted in over 13,000 injuries and more than 2,500 fire related deaths! These numbers are startling, but there is something everyone can do to help them survive a fire in their home: "Have Two Ways Out"!

This year the annual observance of National Fire Prevention Week is October 7 – 13, 2012. This year's fire prevention message is: "Have Two Ways Out".

National Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire which occurred in October 1871. That conflagration killed more than 250 people, left another 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures.

Approximately one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. Unfortunately, many people who have prepared an escape plan seldom practice their plan. However, in times of emergency, practice and preparation are essential to survival.

Harford County is fortunate to have an outstanding cadre of volunteer fire and rescue personnel. Our fire fighters, rescue and emergency medical service providers are well trained and work tirelessly to protect and serve our community. However, they cannot do this alone.

Fire protection and life safety is everyone's personal responsibility. We all need to be vigilant about fire safety at home and in the workplace.

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During National Fire Prevention Week many of the county's volunteer fire and ambulance companies will hold special "Open House" events for the public to attend. I urge our citizens to take the opportunity to visit your local fire department to gather more information about fire and life safety for you, your family and loved ones.

To learn more about "Have Two Ways Out" visit the National Fire Protection Association website at www.firepreventionweek.org.

When it comes to fire safety, what you do may be the difference between life or death for you, your family and loved ones.

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"Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future"